

Temple Adath Yeshurun

Religious School

Inspiring a Love of Jewish Living

Parent Handbook

2020-2021

Stacy Garnick, Education Director
Rabbi Beth Davidson

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Welcome from the School Committee

This handbook was developed by TAY's School Committee to assist your family in preparing for your child's Jewish education experience. The information contained in this handbook highlights the guidelines and procedures followed by the Temple Adath Yeshurun Education Program.

Providing your child with a positive Jewish education experience is the major goal of our education program. Our teachers are committed to helping your child develop a positive Jewish identity, as well as providing the knowledge that is necessary for Temple involvement and participation in Jewish life. However, as parents, you are your child's most significant teacher. By providing your child with the support and encouragement s/he needs to get the most out of his or her Jewish education, s/he will be more likely to have a successful and positive experience.

We welcome your feedback and are available to answer any questions you may have.

Welcome from the Education Director

"Inspiring a Love of Jewish Living" is Temple Adath Yeshurun Education Program's vision statement. Rabbi Beth Davidson and I, working in partnership with the Education Committee, structure our Jewish education program and its policies and procedures. Together we strive to provide the children with a positive Jewish educational experience. I welcome you to Temple Adath Yeshurun Religious School and encourage you to take full advantage of the opportunities we have for families to experience learning together. I look forward to a wonderful, productive year for both your children and you.

Peace & pomegranates, Stacy Garnick

School Hours

Grades 3-7 class time is divided between learning Hebrew for participation in services as well as living a Jewish life, including celebrating home rituals and many Jewish life cycle rituals. In addition to these classes, there are school wide holiday observances, family education programs, and monthly family services, as well as sundry enrichment activities.

Students who have completed their formal pre-Bar/Bat Mitzvah classroom education are encouraged to remain part of the TAY education program by continuing in our post Bat/Bat Mitzvah program: CHAI SCHOOL and/or by becoming madrichim (classroom aides). For additional information, please contact Stacy Garnick at eddirectorTAY@gmail.com.

Class Times

Kindergarten – Grade 7 meet on Sunday mornings, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Grades 3-7 also meet on Tuesday afternoons, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Attendance Policy

Parents are asked to have their child in class on time and to pick him or her up promptly at the conclusion of the class. **If your child will be absent please call the Temple office or email Stacy Garnick, our Education Director: eddirectorTAY@gmail.com.**

Students are responsible for making up work missed due to absence. Assignments are designed to cover the work missed in class so that your child will be prepared for the subsequent class.

All students are expected to regularly attend all classes and complete all required work to be promoted to the next grade level.

We all lead busy lives. We recognize that while your child/ren is Jewish 100% of the time, religious school may not be your child/ren's only commitment. However, we encourage you to not sign your children up for activities that conflict with religious school hours. In the event that this cannot be avoided, BEFORE the extended time of coming late/leaving early and/or absence, please discuss your plans with Stacy, so that we can work together toward a compromise.

If you need to pick up your child early, please let us know before class. Come into the synagogue and ask for your child, whom we will retrieve when you arrive. If someone else is picking up your child, early or when we typically disband, please let us know whom and have them be prepared to show us their license upon pick-up.

Homework

Our teachers do assign homework, especially in our Hebrew classes. As with acquiring all new skills, coming only to the lesson isn't enough to become competent. We expect that children will practice their Hebrew reading for at least 30 minutes per week. We suggest that you carve out a regularly scheduled time for this homework, as to not let the time float away. **Please let us know if you need Hebrew transliteration so that you can assist your child with their Hebrew reading - are more than happy to provide this to you.**

For Jewish studies classes, homework may include reading and/or answering open ended questions about the reading. This is so that we can maximize our class time, and not spend time preparing for the subject of the day by reading here. Occasionally we will assign long range assignments.

Promotion Policy

Every effort will be made by the teaching staff and Education Director to help your child have a successful school year. Communication between parents and the teaching staff is essential to helping your child succeed in our education program. Attendance, quality of classroom participation, oral and written assignments all play a part in determining successful completion of the required material for each grade level.

If a child is denied promotion because of excessive absences or for academic or other reasons, the child shall have the opportunity to remedy the situation prior to the beginning of the next school year through independent study or tutoring, which will be at the parents' expense.

Extenuating circumstances will be reviewed by Stacy and the Rabbi.

Progress Reports

Progress reports are issued to students in our education program twice each year. Each teacher will provide feedback based on his or her own assessment of the child's classroom performance. Parents are asked to acknowledge receipt of mid-year progress reports by emailing Stacy (eddirectorTAY@gmail.com). Copies of all progress reports are retained in each child's school record that is maintained by the Education Director.

Service Recommendations

One of our educational goals is teaching Tefillah (prayer). The empirical components of reading, basic vocabulary, and choreography of our prayers is crucial to passing our traditions from one generation to the next. Insuring that our students have kavanah (intention), maximum comfort and confidence while participating in prayer services are more elusive goals. Going to services and participating with regularity offers experience and practice to obtain these goals. Communing with others and supporting community members is a crucial piece of the Jewish identity puzzle.

Our ancient Hebrew words and prayers are always relevant, as we utter these words to support ourselves and others during our saddest and most difficult life moments, and as well, we celebrate our happiest moments with Hebrew too.

Only this experience will give your child/ren the practice they need to both lead (Bar/Bat Mitzvah) and participate in a congregation, aiding in familiarity with worship and comfort on the bimah. We encourage you and your family to come to services often, but especially as our child moves toward their Bar/Bat Mitzvah year, our recommendations are as follows:

Grade 5: 9

Grade 6: 12

Grade 7: 18

Dismissal Procedure

In an effort to ensure the safety of all our children, the School Committee is implementing the following dismissal procedures. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact Stacy Garnick. If you have a change of plans or are late in picking your child up, please call the Temple office and we will communicate that to your children.

If you need to pick up your child early, when possible, please let us know before that day's class. Come into the synagogue and ask for your child, whom we will retrieve when you arrive. If someone else is picking up your child, whether early or when we typically disband, please let us know whom and have them be prepared to show us their license upon pick-up.

All parents are expected to park in the parking lot and come into the Temple to retrieve their children. Please wait in the lobby, as not to disturb classes that may still be in session. Parking in the fire lane alongside our entrance will not be allowed.

REMINDERS: Please remind your children of these procedures. In addition, make sure your child understands that every time they enter or exit the building – it must be through the lobby doors. Please also remind your child that under no circumstances should they be walking around the building. We will do our best to monitor and avoid these situations but need your help.

Behavior Policy

The School Committee has established a behavior policy with the purpose of protecting all of the students in the school equally. The policy focuses on basic behavior expectations consistent with the Brit (Covenant of Conduct) and will be strictly enforced. The entire policy can be reviewed by requesting a copy from the Education Director.

Code of Conduct/Our Brit (Covenant)

As part of our registration packet, we ask that every family review the covenant with their child. A copy needs to be signed for each child. In grades 3 and above, both a parent and child signs a copy. In Grades K-2, the Brit needs only to be signed by a parent. The Brit is divided into four categories and offers very specific expectations. These expectations of behavior don't differ from any expectations that the world holds for us in all the places we go.

Requirements for Bar/Bat Mitzvah

(See B'nai Mitzvah Handbook)

Inclement Weather Policy

TAY's weekday Education Program's cancellation policy is linked with the Manchester Public Schools closing announcements. On any Tuesday morning that public school is canceled, we will not have school. However, in the event that dangerous weather conditions are expected, or have come later in the day, we will make our decision to close no later than 1:45PM.

On Sundays, by 8:00AM, we will decide to cancel school if weather conditions warrant.

In the event of any cancellation, we will notify you via our Facebook page, and an email. We will also list our closings on WMUR.

Class Family Shabbat Service and Dinner

Each grade in our Education Program, Kindergarten through Grade 7 will help lead a family Shabbat service for their class during the school year. Grades K-6 services are held on a Friday evening at 6:00p.m, with a community potluck dinner to follow. Grade 7 will lead a Shabbat morning service.

We are a community that has reciprocal responsibility toward each other. Each class is assigned to coordinate a potluck dinner for a class other than their own. This way, the families can enjoy the service in its entirety, without having to leave to prepare dinner. Mandy Frank, a school committee member, assigns potluck dinners to fulfill these reciprocal responsibilities. You'll be hearing from her.

Parent Communication

It is our goal to provide effective and timely communication to the families of our congregation. This will be achieved through a variety of methods. Each communication vehicle is described below:

- Whole school and grade specific calendars
- Teachers will email and call students' families as necessary
- E-mails – If you have provided (an) e-mail address(es), it/they will be used to send out announcements and upcoming events
- Weekly DAF KESHER (Connection Page) sent by our education director, Stacy Garnick
- On-Line SCHOODOLOGY – opt in to read details of school happenings and notes from your children's teachers
- Our Temple Adath Yeshurun Religious School Facebook Page

Snack Guidelines

Some of our students have serious food allergies. In an effort to make it easy for all parents and students to make informed decisions regarding what each child can and cannot eat, and to avoid contamination from the snacks of others, please observe the following:

Snacks for all classrooms: No nuts or peanuts or food items containing nuts, peanuts or peanut oil are allowed.

Snacks for classrooms with children that have food allergies: If your child is in one of these classrooms, you will be notified by Stacy Garnick. All food must be pre-packaged with a list of ingredients on the label. Fresh fruit is permitted.

If your child has an allergy, please ensure that it is listed in your registration forms. Also, for the safety of your child/ren, please provide an action plan.

Snack During Pesach

When in school during Passover, the school will provide appropriate snacks in keeping with the traditions and restrictions of the holiday.

Appendix A - Code of Conduct

Children in grades 3 – 10 are required to sign the document below as written below. Parents of youngsters below third grade are asked to read the Code of Conduct to their children.

Code of Conduct Brit (covenant)

We are in a Makom Kadosh, a holy place, a sacred Jewish environment. We will act B'tzelem Elohim, with Kavod and Derech Eretz and Hishtatfoot. This Brit signifies my willingness to conduct myself accordingly while at Temple Adath Yeshurun.

B'tzelem Elohim

- Because we are all B'tzelem Elohim, (created in God's image), I will act and behave well with others, recognizing that God is in each of us.
- I will exercise self-control.
- I will have a positive attitude.
- I will listen appropriately when others are speaking.

Kavod

- I will behave with Kavod, (respect and honor), for others, for myself, and for my environment. Out of my Kavod for others, I will in turn receive Kavod. Kavod is a two-way relationship. Kavod is given when I earn it.
- I will listen to others and respect their opinions even if I don't agree.
- I will respect others' differences, abilities and challenges.
- I will respect authority, peers and property.
- I will accept responsibility for my actions.
- I will regard the Bet Knesset (sanctuary) as a holy place.
- I will treat teachers and adult supervisors with respect through my actions & words.

Derech Eretz

- I will act towards others with Derech Eretz, (manners). All of us deserve to be treated properly.
- I will speak to others politely, and I will not touch or hurt others.
- I will treat others with care and concern.

Hishtatfoot

Hishtatfoot (participation) is part of our Brit. A partnership between students, teachers and parents lives within our walls. Everyone is encouraged to participate and share ideas. No one has the right to interfere with the teaching and learning that goes on in our community.

- I will follow directions.
- I will participate in class.
- I will complete my homework and return it on the assigned date.